



Regional Excellence Honored at Awards Program

A gang prevention project. A revenue-sharing agreement between two cities. A program to reduce childhood deaths and injuries.

What do these partnerships have in common? They're all examples of regional excellence honored by the Maricopa Association of Governments during its Desert Peaks Awards ceremony June 21. The awards spotlight individuals, projects and partnerships that have demonstrated a commitment to regional cooperation.

"This special evening always serves as a vivid reminder to me of the many cooperative innovations and achievements of our members," said MAG Executive Director James M. Bourey in welcoming the nearly 300 attendees. "It gives me great pleasure to play a part in saying 'thank you' for your efforts in making this region a great place to live."


Awards were given in five categories. The Mesa Gang Intervention Project received the Desert Peaks Award for Public Partnership;



Nearly 300 people attended the 2000 Desert Peaks Awards Ceremony.

SAFE KIDS Coalition of Maricopa County took home the top honor in the category of Public-Private Partnership; Norris Nordvold, Intergovernmental Affairs Director for the City of Phoenix, received the Distinguished Service Award; an Intergovernmental Agreement for revenue sharing between the towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek was selected as the recipient in the category of Regional Partnership; and Michael S. Ellegood, Chief Engineer & General Manager of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, was honored for Regional Excellence.

(For more on these individuals, projects and partnerships, please see page 6.)

The Desert Peaks Awards were held at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Phoenix. Tara Hitchcock, host of the highly popular "Good Morning Arizona" on 3TV, served as master of ceremonies for the event. Presenters included Mayor Elaine Scruggs, City of Glendale; Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, City of Chandler; Mayor Cynthia Dunham, Town of Gilbert; Mayor John Keegan, City of Peoria; and Mayor Keno Hawker, City of Mesa. 



Tara Hitchcock from 3TV served as master of ceremonies for the evening.

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Phoenix Mayor
Skip Rimsza

From the Chair

I have often said that it's important for cities to be more cooperative than competitive. Competition has its place, but rarely should it be among neighboring cities. And cooperation is not new. We've been doing it successfully for years at MAG — and we do it better than most.

But I think we can do so much more.

In my regional address in June, I devoted a great deal of time to this issue. I call it the New Municipal Economy. But it's really a natural progression of what we've been doing in some areas, and what MAG is all about.

Let me give you a couple of examples of the kind of expansion I'm talking about.

Nothing beats information when it comes to public safety. The more information a police officer has access to, the better he or she can do the job, the safer they'll

be, and the safer we'll all be. But our ability to get that information from File A to Officer B has not kept pace with technology. Listen to this: in my office today, I logged onto the Internet and in less than 30 seconds had on my screen — in Phoenix, Arizona — live pictures from inside the Kremlin. The Kremlin! But a pawn shop owner in Apache Junction can unknowingly buy property stolen in Mesa, a few miles away, and have no way of knowing the goods are "hot." Why? Because Pinal County computers and Maricopa County computers can't talk to each other. We can look inside the Kremlin a hemisphere away, but we can't access criminal records down the road. And that's wrong.

Let me give you another example. Your police department gets a call from a citizen speculating that a neighbor is "cooking meth" next door. Today, we roll a squad car to that address and call in the license number of the car parked out front. And at best, we can see if the owner of the vehicle has any outstanding traffic warrants. That leaves the officer to knock blindly on the door and hope for the best. But with COPLINK — with all of the computers talking to all of the other computers — an officer can knock on the door and know that "Bill" will answer the door. Bill has a revoked driver's license due to several DUIs. Bill and his two brothers have three prior convictions on the manufacture and sale of dangerous drugs. One of his brothers has a permit to carry

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REGIONAL council members

- ◆ **Mayor Skip Rimsza** Phoenix, *Chair*
- ◆ **Mayor John Keegan** Peoria, *Vice-Chair*
- ◆ **Mayor Jay Tibshraeny** Chandler, *Treasurer*
- Mayor Ron Drake** Avondale
- Mayor Dusty Hull** Buckeye
- Mayor Edward C. Morgan** Carefree
- Mayor Vincent Francia** Cave Creek
- Mayor Steve Garza** El Mirage
- Mayor Sharon Morgan** Fountain Hills
- Mayor Chuck Turner** Gila Bend
- Governor Donald Antone** Gila River Indian Community
- ◆ **Mayor Cynthia Dunham** Gilbert
- Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs** Glendale
- ◆ **Mayor William Arnold** Goodyear
- Councilmember Margarita Garcia** Guadalupe
- Mayor J. Woodfin Thomas** Litchfield Park
- Supervisor Andy Kunasek** Maricopa County
- Mayor Keno Hawker** Mesa
- Mayor Edward F. Lowry** Paradise Valley
- Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr** Queen Creek
- President Ivan Makil** Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Mayor Mary Manross** Scottsdale
- Mayor Joan Shafer** Surprise
- Mayor Neil G. Giuliano** Tempe
- Mayor Adolfo Gamez** Tolleson
- Mayor Larry Roberts** Wickenburg
- Mayor Eugene Russell** Youngtown
- F. Rockne Arnett and Dallas Gant** Arizona Department of Transportation
- Bill Beyer** Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee
- ◆ **Executive Committee Members**



MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments. It focuses on the issues and concerns of the cities, towns and tribal communities of Maricopa County. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to receive MAGAZine, please call the MAG office, (602) 254-6300.

Skip Rimsza
Mayor of Phoenix
Regional Council Chairman

James M. Bourey
Executive Director

Kelly Taft
Editor

Jason Stephens
Contributing Writer

Gordon Tyus
Graphic Design



From the Chair

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a concealed weapon. The other brother “killed a man in Reno just to watch him die.” And Little Billy Junior’s library book is three weeks overdue. That officer needs to know all that in as little time as it takes me to look inside the Kremlin. And of course, the officer also knows — in this specific case — to wait for backup before he knocks.

In Phoenix, my goal is to have Phoenix computers talking to Tucson computers before the end of this year. And for MAG, my goal is to have all law enforcement computers talking to each other before the end of this decade. I can’t think of anything else that will have a greater positive impact on our future than this one giant step.

And we oughta take it.

That’s what I want to do this year. That’s what I want to do as Chair. And I’m looking forward to a very exciting 12 months. 

Videoconferencing

Coming Soon to a City Near You

MAG’s 24-month-old Regional Videoconferencing System Project is about to take its first step. Member agencies will soon be linked through an audioconferencing system, as the initial stage of the videoconferencing project.


“The audio portion of the system, which is simpler technology, will be in place within the next few weeks, then we’ll concentrate on implementing the video part of the project,” said MAG Videoconferencing Planner Heidi Pahl. “Most of the system should be up and running by the end of this summer.”

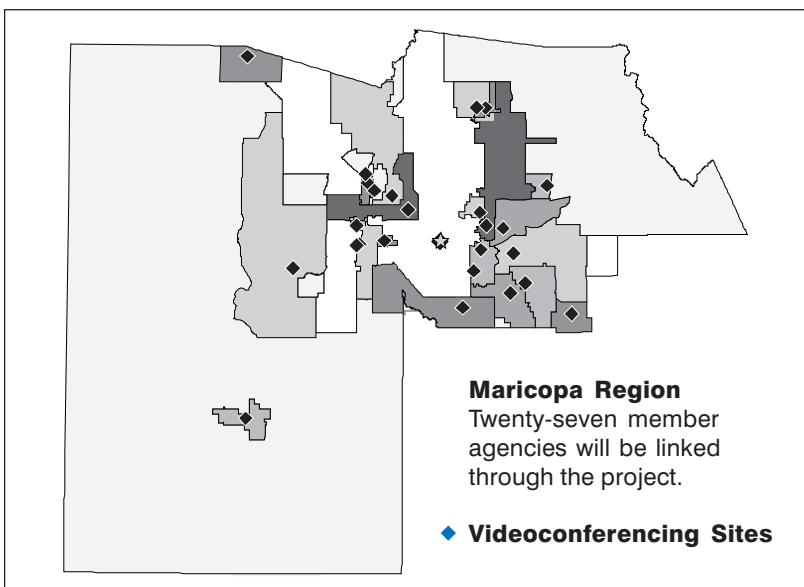
MAG has purchased all equipment necessary for the project, and has contracted with a consultant who will be responsible for system development, installation, equipment and training. The hub site, which will be located at the MAG offices, houses the equipment to link up to 48 sites for an audioconference, or 27 sites for a videoconference.

During a videoconference, member agencies will be able to see and hear on large television monitors what is happening at other remote videoconferencing locations. They can also be

seen and heard via cameras installed at their own locations, enabling all parties to participate freely in the discussion.

“The MAG Telecommunications Advisory Group (MAGTAG) has spent a lot of time and effort pushing this forward, because they believe in it and want to see it succeed,” said Pahl. “The Regional Videoconferencing Project will allow us to widen agency participation in regional decision making, and extend our outreach to citizens who may not otherwise attend MAG meetings,” she said. “A third goal of the project is to reduce vehicle miles traveled, which can relieve traffic congestion and improve air quality.”

The Regional Council directed MAG to embark on the videoconferencing project two years ago. Once the system is installed, MAG plans to host a Videoconferencing Kickoff to celebrate the project’s completion and demonstrate the many benefits videoconferencing will bring to the region. 





MAG Urges Religious Leaders to Address Domestic Violence

Whom would you trust with your most painful secret?

Often, one of the first places domestic violence victims turn for help is their church. In fact, research has shown that one out of every four members of a

working in the domestic violence arena. A previous victim of domestic violence, Buel graduated from Harvard Law School and now dedicates her life to ending abuse, most recently serving as a consultant to the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council.

During the breakfast, Buel discussed the vital role that faith-based communities play in preventing domestic violence, and provided religious leaders with advice on how to respond effectively to victims in their congregations. Buel said religious leaders should start by believing the victim's story, listening to and reassuring the victim the abuse is not their fault.

"Often victims find prayer very helpful," Buel said, "Especially if it is couched in terms of praying for the strength and resources to escape the abuse."


Buel told the religious leaders that they should tell the victim they are concerned for his or her safety and find out if the victim needs a safe place to go. What they should NOT do is tell the victim to only pray harder, blame the victim, or encourage the victim to stay with the abuser, she said. In addition, batterers must know that they will be held accountable for their actions.

"All people are entitled to love, respect and dignity, and no one deserves to be mistreated," said

Buel. "Faith-based communities can play a vital role in ending the cycle of abuse and violence."

Several clergy members agreed with Buel that often they're at a loss when it comes to dealing with abuse.

"Violence is against our religious convictions and everything we believe in as religious leaders," said Dr. Paul Eppinger, executive director for the Arizona Ecumenical Council and a member of MAG's domestic violence council. "But often when victims seek counsel or spiritual guidance from us, they tell us that they don't feel understood and that we don't know how to help them," he said. "We need information on what to do to break the cycle of abuse and help both the victim and the abuser."

The MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council represents one of the largest domestic violence coordination efforts in the country. The 50-member council is made up of domestic violence service providers, elected officials, business leaders, victim advocates, medical providers, foundations, and religious leaders. Their task is to oversee the implementation of 41 recommendations contained in the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Plan and to develop a coordinated, community response to domestic violence. 



Sarah Buel shared her personal domestic violence experience before discussing potential solutions.

congregation is a victim or survivor of domestic violence. Yet many religious leaders are unprepared to handle the counseling or care of domestic violence victims.

On June 15, 2000, the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council hosted a forum for religious leaders on how to deal with domestic violence within congregations. The "Faith-Based Communities and Domestic Violence" breakfast featured national domestic violence expert Sarah Buel, who has more than 24 years of experience

Census 2000 Winding Down

Census workers have completed the second major phase of Census 2000. The MAG region was among the first to complete the Non-Response Follow-Up phase, in which census takers attempted to obtain questionnaires from households that did not respond. Now, there are just a few remaining steps to take before the final count is complete.

The U.S. Census Bureau has completed telephone interviewing and begun field interviewing for a quality-control survey — the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation Survey — which will continue through early September. About 314,000 housing units nationwide will be sampled, and enumerators will use laptop computers to determine if the number of people reported in the housing unit is correct and if any housing units were missed or counted more than once during the census.

Statistical Sampling

Is statistical sampling in the future? In June, the Department of Commerce issued a proposed rule that would authorize the director of the Census Bureau to decide whether census numbers should be statistically corrected for any undercount. After a 45-day comment period and consideration of the comments received, a decision will be made.

The Census Bureau has also begun its Coverage Improvement Follow-Up, which lasts through August 30.

“During Coverage Improvement, the Census Bureau tries to improve the accuracy of the count,” said MAG Executive Director James M. Bourey, who sits on the national Census Advisory Committee. “That includes counting those households that were added through the update/leave and new construction programs,” he said. “A large part of the workload will be to verify the status of all housing units indicated to be vacant by enumerators, yet not classified as undeliverable by the U.S. Postal Service.”


Bourey added that the Bureau estimates the Coverage Improvement Follow-Up phase to involve about 8.2 million housing units.

Unlike the last census, the Census Bureau will NOT be conducting a Post-Census Local Review, in which preliminary population and housing unit counts at the block level were provided to each entity’s highest elected official for review.

“For Census 2000, the Census Bureau chose instead to work with the United States Postal Service and local and tribal governments on the front end to improve address information,” Prewitt explained in a letter to elected officials. “Through the Census 2000 Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program, the interaction between local and

tribal governmental units and the Census Bureau was greatly expanded,” he wrote. Prewitt added that nearly half of the nation’s local and tribal governments participated, covering about 85 percent of all addresses.

A new program, pushed by Bourey and other Census Advisory Committee members, was also developed to identify new construction. This program helped uncover about 337,000 addresses the Bureau had not known about through other sources. As a result of the LUCA and new construction programs, over 3.1 million addresses were added to the address list used for Census 2000.

Bourey said that total population counts for Arizona should be available by the end of this year, while population counts by race and ethnicity at the block level should be released by April 1, 2001. Those figures will be used for redistricting within the state. 



MAG Moment



Count me in! MAG Accountant Dorothy Gillette takes a totally tubular spin during an outing to Saguaro Lake.

Desert Peaks Awards Honor Wide Range of Projects

The Desert Peaks Awards honor excellence in regional cooperation between MAG member agencies, citizens, public agencies and the private sector. Individuals and organizations throughout the Maricopa region vied for awards in five categories. The recipients for each category are outlined below.

PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP


Mesa Gang Intervention Project

Mesa's gang problem has grown from just over 500 documented gang members in 1994 to more than 1,500 in 2000. The Mesa Gang Intervention Project takes a team approach to reduce gang violence and crime through multiple agency collaboration and community mobilization. The project found that many kids join gangs because it gives them a sense of belonging. Team members developed strategies for helping gang-involved youth find jobs, continue their education and repair relationships with families — giving them a *new* place to belong: back in society.

"The Project, in addition to gang prevention and suppression efforts, adds *intervention* in its work with 114 juvenile and adult gang members and associates within a targeted area of Mesa with the highest concentration of gangs," wrote Mesa Police Chief Jan Strauss in nominating the



Mesa Gang Intervention Project. "The Project is receiving national attention for its effectiveness, and has already provided technical assistance to communities in several states," she said.

Components of the program include the Mesa Tattoo Removal Program, family counseling, employment partnerships, Young Women's Group, Young Men's Group, mural arts program, a GED/Literacy Computer Laboratory, and various outreach programs — all to persuade gang-involved youth to abandon gang lifestyle and criminal activities. 




Commander Steve Toland, accepting the Public Partnership Award on behalf of the Mesa Gang Intervention Project.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE


Norris Nordvold

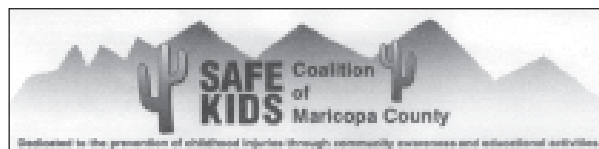
Norris Nordvold has served for more than ten years as the intergovernmental affairs director for the City of Phoenix. Every year he leads the Phoenix urban agenda at the state legislature, fighting to preserve state-shared revenues, protect local authority, and inform state lawmakers about the needs and concerns of Maricopa County voters. He has championed transit and directed Phoenix federal lobbying resources toward securing millions in federal transportation funding. Recently, he helped the city achieve higher participation than expected in Census 2000. He consistently takes a leadership role in negotiating consensus among cities on tough regional issues. One Desert Peaks judge called him a "velvet hammer," stating: "The collaborative way Norris works, he's really a strong asset to the City of Phoenix. Even though he often represents some very controversial points of view — he does it with great dignity." 

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

SAFE KIDS Coalition of Maricopa County

The SAFE KIDS Coalition is dedicated to the reduction of unintentional childhood deaths and injuries across the region. The coalition conducts training and workshops focusing on various areas of injury prevention, including bicycle safety and proper helmet use. Coalition members sponsor special events — such as bike rodeos, health fairs, car seat safety checks and demonstrations — to help prevent pediatric deaths and injuries.

In selecting the award, one judge noted: “We’ll never know how many lives have been saved or injuries prevented because of this coalition.” SAFE KIDS is represented by members from a variety of organizations, including: Barrow Neurological Institute; Emergency Room Nurses Association; Maricopa County Department of Public Health Services; Mayo Clinic; Phoenix Children’s Hospital; Prudential Companies; and the police and fire departments of Chandler, Gilbert, Glendale, Goodyear, Mesa, Peoria, Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe. 



Desert Peaks Dedication



The 2000 Desert Peaks Awards evening was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Raymond Kellis, a Desert Peaks judge who passed away June 8. Dr. Kellis, a former president of the State Board of Education, served for 17 years as

superintendent of the Peoria Unified School District. His wife Nadine, son Quinn and daughter-in-law Suzanne attended the ceremony and were presented with a special award in his honor.

“From his devotion to education, to his work on the Valley Vision 2025 Committee, to the time he gave to serve as a Desert Peaks Judge — Ray’s dedication to public service was an integral part of who he was,” said Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs, a longtime friend of the family. “His selflessness, grace and caring will long be remembered by many of us in this region.”

REGIONAL EXCELLENCE

Michael S. Ellegood

As chief engineer and general manager for the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Mike Ellegood has shown that protecting citizens from floods can also mean unique opportunities for enhancing the environment and improving our communities. His efforts to utilize flood control channels as open space have resulted in projects such as El Rio, the West Valley Recreation Corridor, the Superstition/San Tan Corridor and Tres Rios. In fact, about half of the 225-mile Maricopa Trail Program will be built on flood control channels as a result of Ellegood’s efforts. Ellegood was the driving force behind the Skunk Creek Channelization Project, which connected three Glendale parks. The project has been recognized as an environmental milestone, not only for turning the channel into an alternative transportation trail, but also for its use of gabions (wire baskets filled with local rocks and dirt) instead of concrete to stabilize shores and

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Desert Peaks

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reduce erosion. In just three years with the District, Ellegood has partnered with more than 20 cities to protect citizens from the ravages of stormwaters.

"We are trying to provide the maximum amount of public safety with the highest quality of life at the lowest possible cost," said Ellegood in accepting the award for Regional Excellence. "We are trying to create flood control facilities that will allow future generations to enjoy the beauty of our undisturbed desert."


Ellegood's acceptance speech also provided one of the warmest moments of the evening, when he gave tribute to his 99-year old mother, who accompanied him to the awards banquet. 



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Intergovernmental Agreement - Revenue Sharing

In 1996, the towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek signed an agreement defining the boundary line between the two communities. However, in 1999, Maricopa County granted a zoning request for a 1,300 acre master-planned golf and resort development called Seville. Unfortunately, the Seville development sat directly on top of the boundary line, straddling the two communities.

Because it didn't make sense to have two town addresses and two municipalities providing service to the same project, the towns entered into a unique intergovernmental agreement. Queen Creek agreed to let Gilbert annex the extra property, while Gilbert agreed to give Queen Creek a share of the sales tax revenues that will be generated by the golf course and resort. "The sharing of impact fees and the sales tax is a startlingly simple concept, but one that has never been done before," commented one Desert Peaks judge. "This agreement is a true model of regional cooperation, and one that could be emulated by other cities." 



A master-planned development called Seville is planned for the land shown above, which straddles the boundaries of Gilbert and Queen Creek.

New Regional Council Chair



After concluding the State of the Region speech, Mayor Neil Giuliano said, "It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to serve as your chair, but now it is my absolute pleasure and my privilege to pass on the leadership of this organization to my colleague and successor as chair, Mayor Skip Rimsza."

And with that, the gavel was passed.

Other members of the newly-elected MAG Executive Committee are:

- Vice-Chairman — Mayor John Keegan, City of Peoria
- Treasurer — Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, City of Chandler
- At-Large Member — Mayor Bill Arnold, City of Goodyear
- At-Large Member — Mayor Cynthia Dunham, Town of Gilbert

"Beyond the Crossroads"

State of the Region Takes Look at Where We Are

From pride in the leadership role MAG has taken in the area of human services, to concerns over the challenges of particulate pollution — outgoing MAG Chairman Neil Giuliano examined the successes and challenges of the past year during his State of the Region address June 21.

Titled "Beyond the Crossroads," the address delivered during the Desert Peaks Awards ceremony focused on how far MAG has come during the past several decades.

"Twenty years ago, our region was at a major crossroads — with no viable regional transportation system and frequent air quality violations," Giuliano said. "But voters passed a one-half cent sales tax to fund a regional freeway system, and we adopted many rigorous air quality improvement measures."

Although he praised efforts that have made a once-struggling freeway system financially secure, Mayor Giuliano said the MAG region still lags behind many other similar regions for transportation options. But he acknowledged that an infusion of millions more in federal transportation options is helping. "This means that the system will be delivered at about the same time voters were promised back in 1985," he said.



Tempe Mayor
Neil Giuliano

The two keynote speakers addressed where we are and where we're headed as a region.



Phoenix Mayor
Skip Rimsza

New Chair to Focus on New Economy


Doing business in the future will mean more cooperation among cities, incoming MAG Chairman Skip Rimsza told an audience during the passing of the gavel June 21.

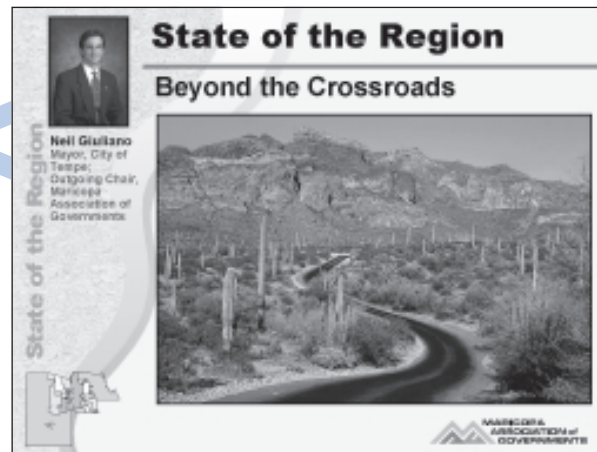
"The New Municipal Economy is an economy of scale. It's an economy of resources. It's an economy of common sense," said the Phoenix mayor in assuming his new duties.

Rimsza provided a series of examples outlining the many ways cities can work together in the future, including the joint purchase of helicopters, an 800 MHz system to provide interoperability for dozens of emergency service agencies in the Valley, integrated library systems, and standardized forms for city paperwork. He also talked about the advantages of a new system called "COPLINK," which allows a police officer to access tens of thousands of criminal records from his mobile computer.

Mayor Rimsza said cities have already taken major strides in cooperative efforts such as

automatic aid agreements, the 9-1-1 system, water treatment, and seamless bus service.

"I'm a firm believer that we can and should work within the existing system," said Mayor Rimsza in concluding his remarks. "Face it, none of us will be here long enough to fundamentally change the system. But each of us will be here long enough to make the existing system work to our best advantage." 



In the area of air quality, Mayor Giuliano said MAG has had many successes on the clean air front, having gone three years without an ozone violation and nearly three years without a carbon monoxide violation. But he pointed out that the region continues to struggle with

Beyond the Crossroads
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See **"From the Chair"** for more of Mayor Rimsza's thoughts on the New Municipal Economy.



Responses to citizen comments are published in this report.

Citizens Respond to Transportation Plans


Citizens had an opportunity to tell decision makers what they think about regional and state transportation plans during an open house and public hearing June 26. Co-sponsored by MAG, the Arizona Department of Transportation, and the Regional Public Transportation Authority, the hearing was the third and final opportunity for the public to weigh in on the region's transportation plans and programs for fiscal year 2000.

"Over the past several months, we've listened to ideas from the public at various transportation events," said MAG Communications Manager Kelly Taft. "The

open house and hearing gave citizens a chance to see how the ideas they presented at the early and mid phases of the input opportunity process were incorporated into the regional and state transportation plans," she said.

At the open house, displays were presented by each agency that showed regional plans for different types of transportation, the projects to be funded over the next five years, and how these plans and projects affect air quality. At the public hearing, citizens were presented with information on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement

Program (TIP), and Air Quality Conformity Analysis. Comments were then recorded and will be considered by the MAG Management Committee and Regional Council before the plans are adopted.

Although this was the final phase of public input for the 2000 Update, public involvement is a continuing process, and citizens will soon have another chance to provide comment on transportation plans. The initial opportunity for input on the FY 2001 Summary and Update of the LRTP, 2002-2006 TIP, and 2001 Conformity Analysis will be held in early fall. 

Beyond the Crossroads continued from page 9

particulate pollution, even facing temporary imposition of sanctions against industrial pollution sources. Other setbacks he noted included a lack of legislative action on CARB diesel (stringent standards set by the California Air Resources Board on diesel fuel) and the elimination of the "smog dog" program.


Mayor Giuliano also praised MAG for its efforts in the area of human services. "These are the kinds of issues that have no use for geographical boundaries — they affect us all," he said.

He pointed to the major strides MAG has taken in the area of domestic violence by convening the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council, and MAG

ongoing efforts in addressing homelessness in the region.

Mayor Giuliano did express concern that the region continues to suffer from major cuts in federal Social Services Block Grant funds, impacting communities' ability to provide for safety net and survival services.

In the future, Mayor Giuliano said MAG should work on bringing all regional stakeholders together and to use the next year for a comprehensive look at where the region is heading.

"MAG as an organization has withstood serious and ongoing scrutiny of our purpose, and even our very existence, because of a lack of understanding of our role and our value," he said. "But tonight I think it is fair to say that we are 'beyond the crossroads.'" 

Management Committee Elects New Officers

The MAG Management Committee has elected its new officers for the year. The new chairman is Chandler City Manager Lloyd Harrell, while the new vice chairman is Glendale City Manager Martin Vanacour.

Harrell commended outgoing Chairman Frank Fairbanks, Phoenix City Manager, for a long list of accomplishments during his two-year tenure. He credited Fairbanks with assisting in the development of a new cooperative planning process with the Arizona Department of Transportation and for steering the committee through difficult decisions associated with the allocation of new federal transportation funds.

"Under Frank's leadership, the MAG Management Committee also addressed a number of important quality of life initiatives," said Harrell, who was formerly vice-chair of the committee. "These included developing a model regional curfew ordinance, a model graffiti abatement ordinance and a regional plan to address domestic violence."

Fairbanks said the most important lesson he'd learned as chairman is that issues will arise that no one entity can solve on its own, and he pledged to maintain his commitment to regional issues.

MAG Adopts Guidelines to Protect Environmentally Sensitive Lands

Protecting more than 1.3 million acres of environmentally sensitive lands is the goal of new design guidelines adopted by the MAG Regional Council in June.

The Environmentally Sensitive Development Areas (ESDA) Policies and Design Guidelines are structured to provide design standards that can be locally adopted by MAG member agencies. The guidelines address the sensitive development of retention areas that adjoin conservation areas or other protected lands.

“The guidelines represent a significant milestone in incorporating environmental principles into open space planning processes on a regional scale,” said MAG Regional Development Manager Corey Cox. “This will help provide future generations with a system of open space which will sustain desert ecosystems.”

The ESDA guidelines are an outgrowth of the MAG Desert Spaces Plan adopted in 1995. The Plan is based on a detailed inventory of land characteristics in the region. The Desert Spaces Plan identifies 962,000 acres of land as desirable for conservation and 645,000 acres of land as secured open space. The Plan further identifies more than 1.3 million acres of land as environmentally sensitive — public and private lands that will likely be developed, but because of their environmental significance should be developed with care.

“Our goal is for local governments to use these guidelines in developing their own master plans, understanding that they may be tailored for each community’s values and characteristics,” said Cox.

“These policies will help integrate natural open spaces with the built environment, and allow for linkages of trails, washes and mountains. They will also discourage barriers and walls for the edges of these features,” she added.

The guidelines include conceptual wildlife and desert wash buffer zones. Among the environmental benefits will be water and storm water conservation through natural drainage systems, as well as the ability for vegetation and wildlife communities to remain intact.

According to Cox, prototypical design guidelines were developed for six different land classifications. The greater the slope, the lower the recommended development density.

“More than 60 percent of ESDA lands are on flatlands,” said Cox. “For this land, the guidelines recommend higher density



‘cluster’ developments, leaving more natural open space undeveloped.”

Cox said that despite initial concerns of developers, the final adopted plan offers communities the ability to give citizens the open space they desire, while providing developers the benefits of added housing value due to the social and recreational benefits of open space.

“Recent polls indicate that the public has a high level of support for open space preservation,” said Cox. “Recently some developers of large master-planned communities have preserved 30 to 40 percent of the land as natural open space. The demonstrated marketability of these projects suggest that the ESDA standards will be widely accepted as the best practices for developing environmentally sensitive areas.”



Regional Development Manager Corey Cox discussed the plan on *Horizon*.

A copy of the ESDA Policies and Guidelines can be obtained by calling MAG at (602) 254-6300.

EVENTS *Calendar*

MEETING *Times*

FALL *2000*

August

- 1st** 9:00 AM, Regional Transportation Stakeholders Meeting
- 2nd** 1:30 PM, Specifications and Details Committee
- 8th** 1:30 PM, Street Committee
- 9th** 12:00 PM, Management Committee (if necessary)
- 10th** 2:00 PM, 9-1-1 Oversight Committee
- 11th** 9:00 AM, Interagency High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Stakeholders
- 14th** 1:30 PM, Enhancement Funds Workshop
- 15th** 1:30 PM, Park and Ride Site Selection Project Agency Forum
- 16th** 9:00 AM, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Committee
- 16th** 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee
- 17th** 8:30 AM, Population Technical Advisory Ad Hoc Subcommittee
- 17th** 10:00 AM, Population Technical Advisory Committee
- 18th** 9:00 AM, Human Services Technical Committee Public Outreach
- 21st** 1:30 PM, Enhancement Funds Workshop
- 22nd** 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee
- 23rd** 5:00 PM, Regional Council (if necessary)
- 24th** 10:00 AM, Telecommunications Advisory Group
- 24th** 1:00 PM, Homeless Continuum of Care Steering Committee
- 25th** 1:00 PM, Elderly Mobility Stakeholders Meeting
- 28th** 9:00 AM, North Valley Forum
- 28th** 1:30 PM, Enhancement Funds Workshop
- 29th** 1:30 PM, Building Inspectors and Plan Examiners Forum
- 31st** 1:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee

September

- 6th** 1:30 PM, Specifications and Details Committee
- 8th** 9:00 AM, Interagency High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Stakeholders
- 11th** 1:30 PM, Park and Ride Site Selection Project Agency Forum
- 12th** 1:30 PM, Street Committee
- 13th** 12:00 PM, Management Committee
- 19th** 1:30 PM, Regional Bicycle Task Force/Pedestrian Working Group
- 19th** 4:00 PM, Regional Trails Forum
- 20th** 10:00 AM, Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee
- 20th** 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee
- 21st** 8:30 AM, Population Technical Advisory Ad Hoc Subcommittee
- 21st** 10:00 AM, Population Technical Advisory Committee
- 25th** 9:00 AM, North Valley Forum
- 26th** 1:30 PM, Building Inspectors and Plan Examiners Forum
- 28th** 10:00 AM, Telecommunications Advisory Group
- 28th** 1:00 PM, Homeless Continuum of Care Steering Committee

The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change. Other committees not listed here may meet during these months.

Please call (602) 254-6300 for confirmation.

October

- 4th** 5:00 PM, Regional Council
- 5th** 9:00 AM, Human Services Technical Committee
- 5th** 1:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee
- 11th** 12:00 PM, Management Committee
- 19th** 9:00 AM, Human Services Coordinating Committee/Technical Committee Joint Meeting
- 26th** 10:00 AM, Telecommunications Advisory Group
- 27th** 1:00 PM, Homeless Continuum of Care Steering Committee



All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, will be held in the conference rooms located in the MAG offices on the second floor of the Compass Bank Building, 302 N. 1st Avenue. Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation.



302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 300, Phoenix, AZ 85003
Telephone (602) 254-6300, Fax (602) 254-6490
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